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SEPTEMBER 2025  
#379 • 33/03

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FROM  
THE LOUNGE

**SECRETS OF  
THE VATICAN**

**HOW TO  
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Fae



Ette

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QUALIFIER  
ROUND 1

FRI, OCT 3  
@ 9PM



A woman with long, wavy blonde hair is sitting against a large tree trunk. She is wearing a bright yellow, sleeveless, form-fitting dress with a lace-like pattern on the bodice. She is looking over her shoulder towards the camera. The background is a lush green field with tall grass and trees.

*Trixxie*

FROM  
THE LOUNGE



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## SECRETS OF THE VATICAN

conspiracy theories mixed with downright weirdness

page 20 | by wombstretcha the magnificent



## TOGETHER

everyone's favorite theater-beater is back with a new review

page 31 | by ian sellwood



## I WAS PROBABLY A TERRIBLE CHILD

unembellished childhood memories are a bit of a rarity

page 34 | by hannah one cup



## HOW TO HACK LOS ANGELES

an unbiased quest item list for bands heading south

page 40 | by blazer sparrow

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## INSIDE STUFF

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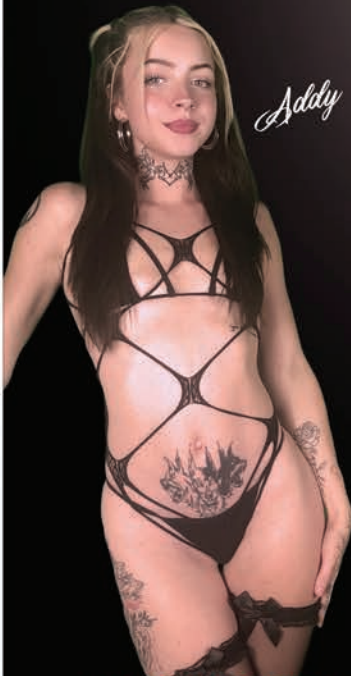


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### THU 9/4

### GUILTY PLEASURES

### SAT 9/6



### THU 9/18



### SAT 9/20

### GUILTY PLEASURES

### FINALS!

### SAT 9/27





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Summer's winding down, but there's still plenty of industry happenings this month. And with fall around the corner...well, you all know what that means in regards to the premier industry event, but we'll get to that a little later. For now, let's focus on this month's offerings.

Starting things off right with a few birthdays this month! The first is on Friday, September 12, at Lucky Devil, for Kiki's Burlesque Birthday Extravaganza! We've got back-to-back birthdays this month, so save some energy to make it out to Guilty Pleasures on Saturday, September 13, for Karizma's Pink Birthday Party. Happy Birthday from *Exotic*, queens!

Moving on to other industry events and parties, there's a '90s Party at Stars Cabaret (Bridgeport) on Saturday, September 13, so break out those combat boots and camo cargo pants! Fast forward a week to Saturday, September 20, and it's time to ring in autumn like a boss, with the Fall Into Temptation (party) at Stars Cabaret in Salem.

Wrapping up events for September, we have the latest offering from the local industry impresario—DJ Dick Hennessy: The 11th Annual *Best Breasts of the West Contest*. It all kicks off on Thursday, September 4, at Club Detour. We have all the important dates listed to the right, and make sure you check out the event spread on page 16!

## MISS EXOTIC OREGON 2026

Fall is our favorite season here at *Exotic*. And it's not about the amazing colors, the littered leaves, and the cooler air...it's all about the industry's premier pageant—*Miss Exotic Oregon*. It's coming next month, and we're announcing the official dates in this very issue. It all starts at Kit Kat Club on Friday, October 3! All the October dates are on the right, in red. Flip to page 36 for the official announcement with all the dates and essential info!



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## eroticcity spotlight

**THU 04 – CLUB DETOUR – BEST BREASTS OF THE WEST (ROUND 1)**

**SAT 06 – GUILTY PLEASURES – BEST BREASTS OF THE WEST (ROUND 2)**

**SUN 07 – DANTE'S – SINFERNO CABARET**

**FRI 12 – LUCKY DEVIL – KIKI'S BURLESQUE BIRTHDAY EXTRAVAGANZA!**

**SAT 13 – GUILTY PLEASURES – KARIZMA'S PINK BIRTHDAY PARTY**

**SAT 13 – STARS CABARET (BRIDGEPORT) – '90S PARTY**

**SUN 14 – DANTE'S – SINFERNO CABARET**

**SAT 18 – CLUB DETOUR – BEST BREASTS OF THE WEST (ROUND 3)**

**SAT 20 – AJ'S GENTLEMEN'S CLUB  
BEST BREASTS OF THE WEST (ROUND 4)**

**SAT 20 – STARS CABARET (SALEM) – FALL INTO TEMPTATION**

**SUN 21 – DANTE'S – SINFERNO CABARET**

**SAT 27 – GUILTY PLEASURES  
BEST BREASTS OF THE WEST (FINALS)**

**SUN 28 – DANTE'S – SINFERNO CABARET**

## OCTOBER

**FRI 03 – KIT KAT CLUB – MISS EXOTIC OREGON 2026**

**QUALIFIER ROUND I**

**FRI 10 – DESIRE – MISS EXOTIC OREGON 2026**

**QUALIFIER ROUND II**

**FRI 17 – STARS CABARET (SALEM) – MISS EXOTIC OREGON  
2026 QUALIFIER ROUND III**

**FRI 24 – THE LOUNGE – MISS EXOTIC OREGON 2026  
QUALIFIER ROUND IV**

## HAPPY HOURS

**AJ'S – 10AM-5PM**

**CABARET – 2PM-6PM**

**CLUB 205 – 10:30AM-6:30PM**

**DEVILS POINT – 3PM-6PM**

**DESIRE – 6PM-9PM**

**DV8 – 12PM-3PM**

**GUILTY PLEASURES – 12PM-8PM (SUN-THU)**

**THE LOUNGE – 11AM-4PM**

**LUCKY DEVIL – 3PM-6PM**



# SECRETS OF THE VATICAN

BY WOMBSTRETCHA THE MAGNIFICENT

## A COLLECTION OF CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND DOWNRIGHT WEIRDNESS

The Vatican. Seat of Catholicism. Amazing architecture. The fuckin' Pope lives there, and so on. Vatican City is a small country, at only .19 square miles in size, and the Church and only the Church sovereignly governs it. As long as the Catholic Church has existed, there has been a whole lot of crazy shit that has been attributed to the institution. Catholics, I'm not poking fun at you...well, okay, maybe a little, but there has long been speculation as to what goes on behind the scenes. I am talking about the Vatican Secret Archive, which is purportedly a vast collection of things the Holy See has collected over the centuries, which are kept secret by the will of the church, or really, what things people **think** they are keeping down there.



They say the Archive is a miles-long underground vault which holds a lot of historical secrets and bizarre relics, and only very few people have been granted access to the same, which is predicated on taking an oath of strict confidence. No copies of documents, no photos, no electronic devices allowed. Top secret shit. I looked into it, and people believe that due to this secrecy, many crazy ideas of what they are keeping in there have encouraged great speculation. I have researched the most bizarre things I've found people saying about it. I'm thinking, how

can it be a miles-long dungeon if the whole country is only 0.19 square miles? Are they zig-zagging it like a medieval game of Tron?

In no particular order...



The Ark of the Covenant

Yeah, that big, ghost-throwing bitch from Indiana Jones. It is supposedly a big wooden chest covered in gold, which contains the original ten commandments, Aaron's rod (purportedly some kind of Hebrew pimp cane), and a big, fat cup of manna, which I think is supposed to get you high as fuck. It was lost in antiquity because many people wanted it and took it for themselves. Where did it end up? Some people think the Vatican has it in the basement. You know, for parties.



The True Cross

Ostensibly, they have a huge hunk of the cross that Mr. Jesus died on. They give some away from time to time. They gave one to King Charles III for his coronation, to break

bread, I guess, as he is the head of the Church of England, which is not Catholic. If we counted the number of times people said they had the damn thing, there'd be enough wood to think we cleared a forest.



Nazi Gold

There have been many assertions in the past that the Nazis, during their time in power, had given gold to the Bank of the Vatican, and had the resultant cash funneled back to them via shell corporations, investments, and many other things. This one might actually be true, since the Bank of the Vatican has been known for such schemes in more modern eras, as well. However, we shall never know if they're hoarding them bricks.





## Time Machine

At a time in the mid-20th century, a priest named Pellegrino Ernetti said he had invented something he called a "chronovisor." What does it do? Well, it is like a TV, but it lets you see any moment from the past, as though you were there. They were said to have been excited because they wanted to see the crucifixion of Jesus. That's a tad morbid, I feel. The Vatican has never confirmed, nor denied, this endeavor. I'd watch something else if it existed. Like when Ben Franklin fucked that guy's mom, then kicked him right in the **dick**, and mused to himself, "I should write a book about this."



## The Original Devil's Bible

Also known as the "Codex Gigas," this book is a massive edifice of literature. There's mythology about it, which states that there was a monk who got in legal trouble and was to be executed for a crime unspecified, but thought to be heresy. He appealed to the magistrates that he would write a compendium of all human knowledge in a single day if they let him go. They gave him a chance. He got to it, but knew it was fruitless, so he made a pact with the devil to help him write it, in exchange for his soul, of course. He accepted, according to legend, and penned this humongous book.

When I say the book was big, I'll put it this way: it was 20 inches wide, 36 inches tall, 9 inches thick, and weighed 165 pounds—penned on 310 goatskin pages, in delightful calligraphy. There is a wonderful drawing of Satan in the middle of the book, which also contains the whole bible, medical treatises, those on agriculture, those on politics, great pages on demons, and the means to summon or banish them. The work was clearly not made in a day, but probably over many years; however, the rumor is that there's a **real** version, which contains information humans should not know. What, the demon thing wasn't enough?

## Dead Saints

There's a little-known quality in sainthood



that if you are pious to a certain degree, then when you die, your body will not decay. These people are known as "incorruptible," as you defy death itself and remain looking good, even though you are indeed dead.

Many tales exist that (for whatever reason), the body of a holy person will be exhumed, and they find, despite being long-dead, your flesh is livid and you look like you are alive. They have a collection of these, which they admit, and they put them in glass coffins to display. However, it is speculated that they have a team of specialists to keep long-dead saints fresh and ready for the club. My question here is how the fuck many of them are they sitting on?



## Robot Pope

It is rumored that they have a robot Pope... not like a sci-fi robot, but more like an animatronic, made by Catholic imagineers, poached from Disneyland. It is said that the purpose of it is for when the real Pope is busy, but needs to be waving to the masses somewhere else. It makes some sense, but I don't think it is a thing...or is it? Hard to say.

## Gigolos

I know, I know. Low-hanging fruit, but leaked internal communications, and everyone's best common knowledge, have noted that there have been many internal Vatican instances that involve male prostitutes. In addition, it is known that they fought like hell to not change their age of consent from 12

to 18 in 2013, so that just makes this far more creepy...and more likely.



## Alexander the Great

His body, anyhow. I don't think he's down in the archives tearing shit up. Nobody really knows what happened to him, but a popular conspiracy theory is that the Vatican has his body in cold storage after all these years. When he hit the pavement for good, he was buried in Egypt, then moved to Alexandria because he founded the damn place and wanted to be buried there, but after a few years, during the Middle Ages, he was sold to the Vatican, who thought it was the body of St. Mark. They thought, "Well, this sounds great. We'll dress him up and have him chill in the basement for all time."

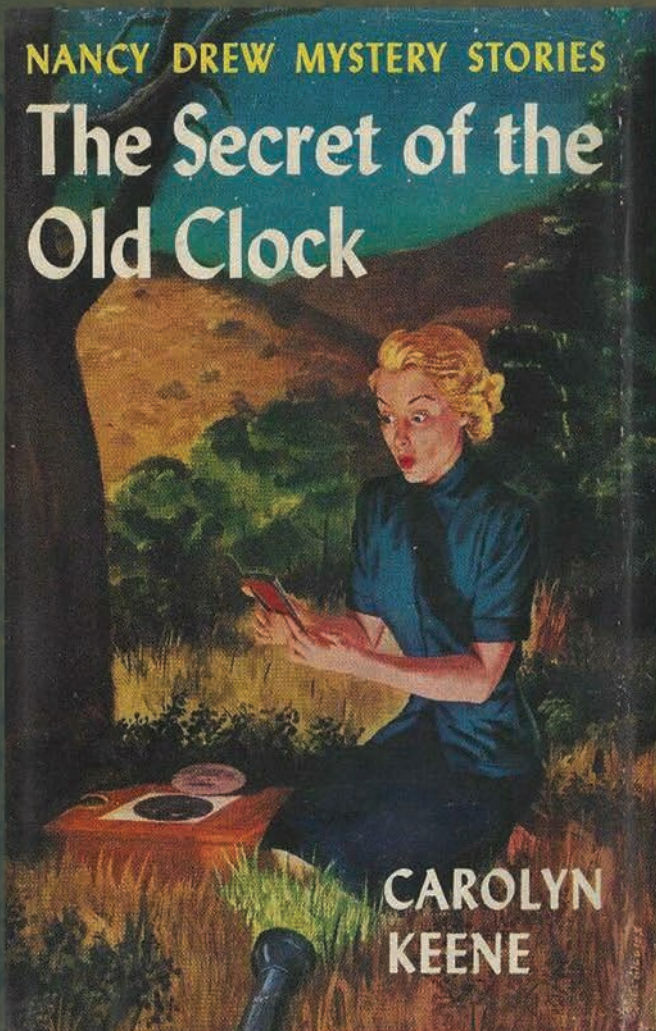


## Fucking Aliens

Yes, people think there is a UFO in the archives, some flying saucer, which was captured approximately a hundred years ago. If



not that, merely a dead alien body. According to certain people, the Vatican gets regular visits from extraterrestrial beings. Not sure why that would happen. Are the little green men Catholic? Did they come for space mass?



#### The Nancy Drew Conspiracy

The Archives are said to house the entire collection of first-edition Nancy Drew books. They are read to the Pope when he is having a bad day, by a specifically-ordained cardinal, titled Cardinal of the Drew. This collection also includes copies of the never-seen books, which were banned from release due to heretical content.

Those are some of the things I read about people's beliefs when researching this. I think robot Pope is the most likely.

Holy See ya next time, and take care.

-Wombstretcha

*Wombstretcha the Magnificent* is a pope, possibly an alien, certainly not Alexander the Great, writer, and retired rapper from Portland, OR. He can be found at his website, [wombstretcha.com](http://wombstretcha.com), on Twitter/X/whatever as @wombstretcha503, and on MeWe and (begrudgingly) Facebook, as "Wombstretcha the Magnificent."



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**ANGELS** **4** **FOOD LOTTERY**  
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**CLUB 205** **7** **FOOD LOTTERY**  
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Beaverton: 8687 SW Hall Blvd | (971) 266-8340  
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**DESIRE** **11** **FOOD LOTTERY**  
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Daily 3pm-2:30am

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Daily 11am-2:30am

**DOMINIQUE STELLA** **14** **FOOD**  
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**LUCKY DEVIL LOUNGE** **22** **FOOD LOTTERY**  
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Portland: 2330 SE 82nd Ave | (503) 206-4708  
Daily 24 Hours

Portland: 237 SE MLK JR Blvd | (503) 239-1678  
Sun-Thu 10am-12am, Fri-Sat 10am-2am  
Vancouver: 4811 NE 94th Ave | (360) 254-1126  
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21961 SW Pacific Hwy | (503) 430-5140  
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Daily 24 Hours

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5226 SE Foster Rd | (503) 477-4614  
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8315 SW BARBUR BLVD  
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13639 SE POWELL BLVD  
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3532 SE POWELL BLVD  
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231 SW ANKENY ST  
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633 SE POWELL BLVD  
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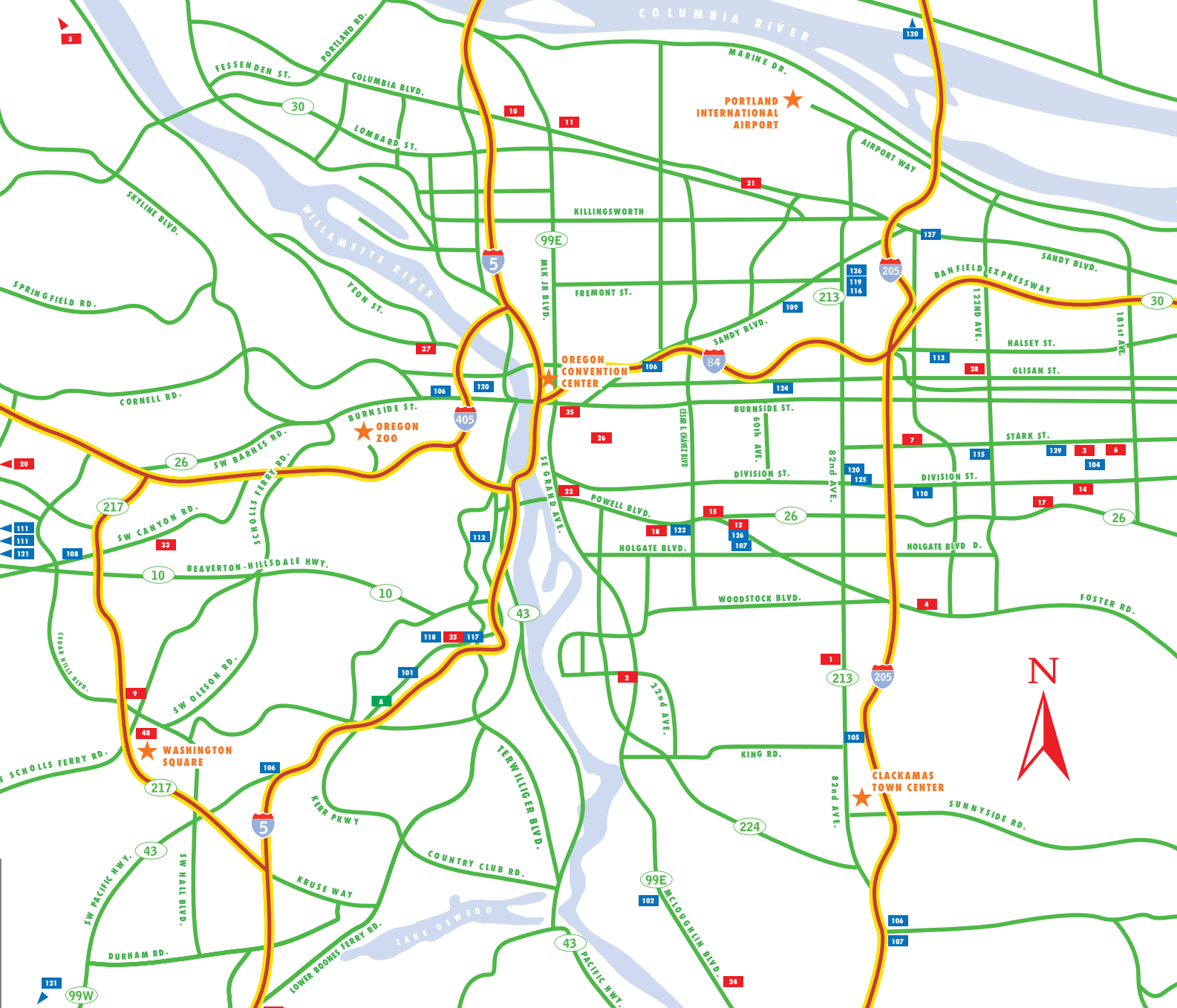


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## DOWNTOWN PORTLAND





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1030 Highway 99 N / (541) 688-1869  
Full Bar, Full Menu, Dancers  
Mon-Sat 12pm-2am, Sun 3pm-12am

### SILVER DOLLAR CLUB

2620 W 10th Pl / (541) 485-2303  
Full Bar, Food, 3 Stages  
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## GERVAIS

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7650 Checkerboard Ct / (503) 792-5100  
Full Bar, Lottery, 1 Stage  
Sun-Thu 12pm-12am, Fri-Sat 12pm-2am

### THE ALIBI

5711 S 6th St / (541) 882-0145  
1 Stage, Private Dances, Full Bar, Lottery  
3pm-2:30am / 7 Days

## HERMISTON

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148 E Main St / (541) 300-9615  
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Lingerie  
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Sun-Thu 10am-10pm, Fri-Sat 10am-12am

### ADULT SHOP

3113 River Rd N / (503) 390-4371  
Videos, Magazines, Books, Novelties, Arcade,  
Lingerie  
Sun-Thu 12pm-10pm, Fri-Sat 12pm-12am

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7pm-4am

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Sun-Thu 10am-10pm, Fri-Sat 10am-12am  
5530 Commercial St SE / (503) 763-6754  
Sun-Thu 10am-10pm, Fri-Sat 10am-12am  
2410 Mission St SE / (503) 763-3556  
Sun-Thu 10am-10pm, Fri-Sat 10am-12am  
Huge Selection Of Lingerie, Shoes,  
Dancewear, Novelties, Gift Cards & More

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5782 Portland Rd NE / (503) 393-4782  
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### STARS CABARET

1550 Weston Ct NE / (503) 370-8063  
Full Bar, Full Menu, Sports Room, 4 Stages  
Mon-Sat 11am-2:30am, Sun 4pm-2:30am

### SUGAR SHACK GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

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Sun-Thu 12pm-12am, Fri-Sat 12pm-2am

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11732 Airport Rd / (425) 290-7555  
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Sun-Thu 8am-12am, Fri-Sat 8am-1am

## LYNNWOOD

### DEANNA'S VIDEO

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Videos, Magazines, Arcade, Novelties, Toys  
Sun-Thu 9am-11pm, Fri-Sat 9am-1am

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### CLUB SINROCK

208 SW 16th St / (425) 255-3110  
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Tue-Sun 7pm-2am

## SEATTLE

### ALL THE SMOKE AURORA

10332 Aurora Ave N / (206) 535-7964  
Rigs, Cigs, Cigars, Pipes, Wraps, Vapes, Hookah,  
Kratom, Beer, Wine, Munchies & More  
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### CLUB DOLL HOUSE

10338 Aurora Ave N / (206) 413-5524  
18+, 1 Stage, VIP Area, ATM  
11am-2:30am / 7 Days

### FANTASY UNLIMITED - SLU

2027 Westlake Ave / (206) 682-0167  
Toys, Lingerie, Novelties & Books  
Sun-Thu 12pm-10pm, Fri-Sat 12pm-12am

### FANTASY UNLIMITED - AT THE MARKET

1510 1st Ave / (206) 624-1784  
DVDs, Toys, Lingerie, Novelties, Books, Theater & Arcade  
Mon-Thu 10am-10pm, Fri-Sat 10am-12am,  
Sun 10am-8pm

### HOLLYWOOD EROTIC BOUTIQUE

12706 Lake City Way NE / (206) 363-0056  
DVDs, Toys, Novelties, Lingerie, Theater  
24 Hours / 7 Days

### JOES' BAR & GRILL

500 S King St / (206) 223-9266  
Drinks, Pull Tabs, Pool Table  
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### THE PLAYGROUND CABARET

7509 15th Ave NW / (206) 782-1225  
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Mon-Sat 11am-2:30am, Sun 5pm-2:30am

### VIDEO VIDEOS

10326 Lake City Way NE / (206) 523-5973  
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Theater  
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Essentials For Lovers  
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9611 E Sprague Ave / (509) 928-9499  
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Arcade  
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### YAKIMA ARCADE

21 S Front St / (509) 575-9433  
Adult Toys, Movies, Magazines, Lingerie & Arcade  
9am-11pm / 7 Days

# DID WE MISS A LOCATION?

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OR TEXT/CALL (503) 241-4317  
AND LET US KNOW!



# TOGETHER

By Ian Sellwood

So, I feel like my expectations were set too high with last year's *The Substance*. I thought horror, particularly body horror, was returning to the realm of the gooners. That movie won awards! There was enough titty in that movie to contend with some of the great VHS skinfests from the '80s, or borderline porn from the '70s. I was certain we were back! When I saw a bunch of noise made about an indie body horror movie featuring a real-life couple dealing with themes of intimacy and relationships, you can imagine how quickly I reached for my theater lube!

Very quickly, if you were wondering.

After taking a month off, and only being able to achieve an erection from a foreign, streaming flick, I was excited to come back slinging web with a true theatrical release, finally. There was no way this wasn't going to be a horny, gross flesh fest in the vein of golden classics like *Society*.

## Spoilers Ahead!

It wasn't. I probably should've done a little more research before flinging myself, boner first, towards the first theater I saw. I keep forgetting that, although *The Substance* was an American movie, it was still helmed by a French director. I guess I really should mitigate my expectations. Despite what the Oscars led me to believe, it seems we're still on the prude end of the pendulum swing. And not just with films, but also the cultural perception of films. I am still irked by those Reddit idiots trying to lecture me on how *Sinners* was a very sexual movie. NOT. ONE. TIT.

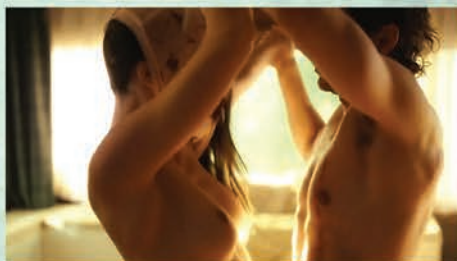
*Together* is in this same vein of film that's about sex without showing any sex. And I'm sorry, I do *not* count clothed fuck scenes as legitimate fuck scenes. To be clear, we do get to see Alison Brie's tits, but not till the very fucking end. I was hoping, since she did full frontal in that weird movie where aliens kidnap her or something, and we get to see her fat bush, she would be totally fine bearing all in this one. Based on the trailers, I was expecting all kinds of nudity, as her and Dave Franco's bodies went from fucking to melting together.

Save yourself an expensive theater trip and stream this one...so you can just fast forward to the end, 'cause that's the only time that happens.



As I mentioned above, there is one clothed fuck scene, but again I simply can't count it cause you don't get to see anything. It is in a school bathroom, so that's kind of a hot setting. Reminded me of high school, when I'd try to pee in the urinal while listening to the jocks plow the cheerleaders in the stalls behind me. Core memory unlocked, but not enough to get even a half chub.

Okay, I take that back. You do get some nudity in that fuck scene, in the form of Baby Franco's flaccid dick. It's kind of a funny scene, but, like...if we get to see the dude's wang, doesn't it seem only fair we get to see the gal's snatch? She's already shown it.



As I was walking home with a tube of unused lube and a full set of balls, I realized there was actually a lot more male nudity in the movie in general than female nudity. Then I remembered a conversation I overheard in a bar I was sitting in alone. Apparently, Dave Franco is some sort of gay fetish icon in the club scene. Or at least he was when he was younger. There was a period where at most gay dance nights, especially in Portland,

clips of Dave Franco from his various roles were projected on the walls. Or on a screen if one was handy. I became so engrossed in this conversation that I accidentally asked "Why Dave Franco?" out loud to the two guys discussing this. They promptly made a disgusted face, got up, and left. I never got the answer as to why.

But it did make me think that maybe this movie wasn't for me. Maybe it was an extension of this Dave Franco gay fetishization. During said sex scene, we do get some Dave Franco ass. And there's a shower scene where there's a whole bunch of his ass. No dick, but plenty of ass and a slick, wet, nude Davey boy thrashing around, because of some plot point I wasn't paying attention to.



So, while this film doesn't do anything to me, I encourage my gay readers—if I have any of them—to write in and tell me if this did anything for them, downstairs. I'm curious if the shower scene is currently being projected on the walls at a gay bar right now. I'm too straight to find out myself, but if someone can confirm, that'd be swell.



1/5 eggplants

Ian Sellwood is a voice actor, comedian, and certified Sigma Male from Lake Oswego. He frequently contributes content to Mr. Skin and is highly active on 4chan. He can be reached at [iancel@xmag.com](mailto:iancel@xmag.com)



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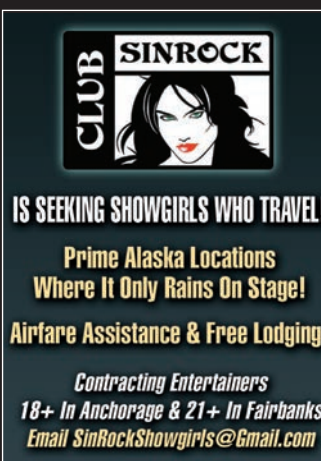
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# I WAS PROBABLY A TERRIBLE CHILD

BY HANNAH ONE CUP

We all have memories of childhood, some more than others. Not all these memories are happy, and fewer still are memories that actually happened. I find that many times I'll concoct some story that occurred when I was a child, which stems from memories being misplaced and jumbled together to form one complete, false memory. My false memories tend to paint me as a wonderful, hard-working student. A tomboy who had more guy friends than girls, because girls were too complicated, and who was always polite to everyone she met. However, upon spending more time contemplating my childhood, I've come to realize that I was probably a huge, little dick.

I'm sure I'm not the only one who has this issue. Even those of us who are seemingly obvious about ourselves and how awful we were growing up tend to highly over-exaggerate actual events so we sound "more badass" than we really were. Sure, you probably got in trouble for stealing some candy one time, or trading your teacher's mug of coffee for beer, but it's highly unlikely that you went to juvie for a whole year, while learning how to make a shiv, and you probably had As and Bs in school—just saying. Not saying that didn't actually happen to some of you, but we all know that most of these stories are very embellished and sprinkled with many white lies.

So, I went through some examples through the deep recesses of my mind of times when I was a complete dick, versus the stories my family or I have portrayed of me as a fairly wonderful, easy-to-raise child.

We used to take yearly trips to Orcas Island for Christmas because my dad didn't want to spend time with our extended family, and while waiting to be checked into our cabin, I saw a woman sitting on a bench, minding her own business, reading a book. I stared at her, and she smiled politely at me. I stuck my tongue out at her and scowled, and I watched her mouth fall agape as she gasped. I turned around like nothing happened, and we left without anyone but that woman being the wiser. I was about 6.

I used to tell my brother to "Look!" as he would turn to me and see a garter snake in my hand. He was like Indiana Jones back then, with a fear of snakes. I did the same thing with jellyfish, telling him it was alive and going to shock him as I pretended to kick a dead mound of goo at him. I was probably about 9, and my brother was roughly 8.

One time, I forged my mom's signature on a detention slip so she wouldn't know I had detention, but I got caught by the teacher and then lied about it. My "signature" was not great and pretty much just piss-poor cursive. I think I asked my mom to "write down your name for me so I can make you a card," so that I could see how she wrote her R's. Anyways, I was caught. I was about 11.

While working at a grocery store, I was frequently asked to stop dyeing my hair different colors, or they'd have to fire me. I told them to fire me then, but they didn't. I kept my hair. I was 16. I also went to buy a label maker at Bi-Mart and put "#1 Courtesy Clerk" on my name badge.

I've hot-handed many pieces of makeup from stores because makeup is stupid expensive for no good reason. Still, I was most proud of making entire bottles of Red Robin seasoning disappear from two tables while eating, and then reappear as my mom's birthday present (she loved that stuff). I was a great daughter, see?

I used to be really tall in high school, so in sports, I was always paired with a hefty gal, twice my weight. I used to purposely elbow them in the side because I was pissed I had to guard them in the first place. It was like having a string bean with boobs guarding an ork. I quit playing when I started getting caught. It's called defense and offense for a reason, coaches. Don't hate the player, hate the game.

I would hang up on friends who would call me on our land line, and the conversation lasted longer than 3 minutes. They'd still be talking for probably a good 10 minutes, then call back pissed, wondering when I left off. "Oh...what was the last sentence you said?"

Probably there." I don't know how I still have some of these friends or why they liked me. I wasn't a great conversationalist as a child.

I tried sneaking out of my bedroom window by cutting the screen with a really dull pair of scissors. It didn't work out, and I didn't think about the 6-foot drop and how I would get back inside. The cut was noticed by my mom the next morning, and I tried blaming it on bears. We didn't have bears.



I had a friend who was terrified of clowns. So, of course, I used my clown mask from the 1960s to jump out of a hallway and scare them to the point of tears and peeing. Again, I'm not clear how I kept friends back then.





On the subject of making friends, in order to be my friend, I required them to sit through the movie *Kung Pow! Enter the Fist* and enjoy it. If they didn't enjoy it, then they weren't my people. I'd usually make some excuse about why the sleepover should probably end, and was about as tactful as someone trying to end a terrible first date, "Welp...uh, it's been cool, but I'm actually feeling pretty tired, and I left my goldfish in my room. I don't wanna put you out. But I'll let you *know if we should* hang out again." Queen Hannah, sitting on her ivory tower filled with caramel corn and terrible comedy DVDs, handing out "thanks for the memory" cards to all the little people.

My brother used to have a Stretch Armstrong toy, which I bit into because I wanted to see what it was filled with. Apparently, a bunch of silicone beads and some oily substance, which will leak all over the place and stain the carpet. When asked how this happened, I kept my mouth shut. "It wasn't *my* toy. That was definitely *not* me." There were many times in life where I learned to just keep my mouth shut about something I knew I would get in trouble for, if I fessed up and was "a good, honest person." Yeah, right, I was smarter than that. I know how to stay out of jail, whether that "jail" was juvie or being grounded. My parents had a hard time trying to punish me for things because I never fessed up to a crime, which is why I am still considered "The Golden Child." And it's gonna stay that way, since neither of my parents reads this magazine.



Hannah One Cup is currently sitting at home with her dogs, listening to Ambient Swim on the TV, ignoring texts that she will probably make excuses for much later on, and only really regrets sticking her tongue out at that lady. It really keeps her up at night. You can email her at hannahbird6@gmail.com—or not. You probably won't. But if you do, she says she'll probably respond, eventually. Maybe.

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# HOW TO HACK LOS ANGELES

By Blazer Sparrow

I feel like I use this column to shit on L.A. a lot, so I thought I'd try something different this time. Instead of bitching and moaning about what's wrong with the music industry epicenter, I thought I'd use this page to dish out some free, useful advice to aspiring rock stars in their inevitable pilgrimage to this promised (cough), cursed land.

Okay, enough trash talk. Truth is, if you want to even attempt a career in music, you'll need to learn how to navigate this SoCal metropolis. You're never going to get anywhere recording your shitty little home demos and gigging in your shitty little small town (unless it's New York City, then you maybe have a chance of someone noticing). All the money, all the decision makers, all the studios and labels—they're all in Los Angeles. Your only chance of even meeting a mythological A&R rep is in L.A. You think Sub Pop and Kill Rock Stars have A&R people?! I mean, they do, but they aren't going to shows with contracts. They might surf TikTok and look for something with a million views. If they *do* go to shows, they're gonna fly to L.A. to see a band that paid enough to play at the Whisky a Go Go.

As I've mentioned in a previous piece, all roads lead to Rome. And when in Rome...etc. Unless your idea of success is playing at 2 a.m. on one of the side stages at the Oregon Country Fair, you'll need to make the pilgrimage. So, you might as well be prepared.

I've been to L.A. a few times as a touring musician, and have spoken to many poor bastards who *moved* down there to "make it," so don't take these bullet points with a grain of salt. Swallow them whole, without a chaser.

Before you even pack your extra socks to make the dreaded quest south, you need to make sure you have these four things in your van. No point even entering the city limits, unless you acquire these four essential quest items.



It's dangerous to go to L.A. alone. Take these.

## A Jet Pack

For a city that was built for cars and connected by highways, there is absolutely zero parking in this Godforsaken place. If ever there was a failed experiment in city infrastructure, it was this, the second biggest city in America. In order to get from anywhere to anywhere in L.A., you need to get on the highway, and there is traffic all hours of the day, except for the witching hour. And even then, you might find a pile-up due to construction. None of the shitty, small venues you're playing have any parking. Ever. There's only one solution. Fly in on a jet pack. Borrow equipment from the other bands. Otherwise, add six hours to whatever Google Maps says.



## A Gas Mask

Even the people I know who live in this city say it took them a while to get acclimated. Go to the highest peak of Griffith Park and look down at the sprawling metropolis. You will always see an ever-present haze. Granted, it's not as bad as it was in the '80s and '90s, thanks to these things called laws. Still, it's pretty brutal. If you're reading this, you likely live in the Pacific Northwest (I know this magazine's distribution range). You've never known unclear air. You are not prepared. Clamp on, kid. Your pampered lungs won't be able to handle it.

## Several Cases of Beer

Another thing we take for granted in the great, cold, wet Pacific Northwest is the abundance of bars that are open at a decent fucking hour. Portland has often been compared



to Dublin, in that our denizens love nothing more than having a pint or ten at a pub with our mates at any hour of the day. Usually, all hours of the day. It appears these SoCal folks aren't quite so keen on day-drinking. According to my friends who live there, it seems they hit the club scene hard at night, but they have these weird things called "jobs" in the daytime. Good luck finding *any* bar open before 5 p.m., which is usually when load-in is. If you're the average PNW struggling—cough—failing musician, you certainly aren't going to make it through the day without some lunch beers. Make sure to stock up.

## The Entire Audience

Another thing you'll quickly learn as you start playing shows in Los Angeles: it's a zero-sum game. Everyone is in competition with everyone else. No one is helping each other out. You're probably used to helping bring out the crowd and hype up the shows for when touring bands come through your town. Don't rely on the local bands in L.A. to do the same for you. And it's not even their fault. The people down there are sick of live music—specifically rock bands. Do not expect the lusty locals to come check out what out-of-town group is coming through town. They don't care. You need to fill the bar yourself. How, is up to you. Call up whatever friends or family you have in town. Pay people to come. Trick people into coming. Use some of my tips and tricks to increase draw from a few issues ago. Whatever you do, don't expect anyone to be at your shows. Try to get a viral hit on TikTok or something. Honestly, the easiest thing to do is just bring a bunch of people with you to L.A. to fill the venue with. Los Angeles is strictly B.Y.O.B. The second "B" stands for bodies. However, they need to find their own damn parking.



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BLOODY MARYS  
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MIKES GET \$1 OFF DRINKS  
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**FOOTBALL PARTIES**  
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**10AM-5PM**

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**Fully Nude Every Set!**

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**Seeking Dancers 18 & Up!   
Auditions 7pm-10pm**



Bridgeport

Stevie

90s  
Party

SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 13

\$6  
MARGARITA  
MONDAYS

Taco  
TUESDAYS

\$10 BURGER <sup>Beer</sup>  
WEDNESDAYS

Salem

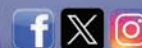
FALL INTO  
TEMPTATION

SATURDAY  
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EXCLUSIVE AUTUMN DRINK SPECIALS  
RAFFLE FOR VIP MEMBERSHIP

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exotic  
OREGON  
2026

QUALIFIER ROUND III  
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